

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 01157 171918Z

53

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

COA-01 EB-07 DLOS-03 PC-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 COME-00 IO-10

FEA-01 INT-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AGR-05 /093 W

----- 073531

P R 171826Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4484

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

USCINCSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 1157

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EC, US

SUBJ: PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ' THIRD ANNIVERSARY SPEECH

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA'S "STATE OF THE REPUBLIC" MESSAGE, GIVEN ON THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF POWER BY THE ARMED FORCES, WAS AN HOUR-LONG, ESSENTIALLY FLAT RECITATION OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HIS GOVERNMENT, WITH NO HINT OF CHANGE. THERE WERE ONLY TWO REFERENCES TO FOREIGN POLICY DIFFERENCES WITH THE US -- OVER THE TRADE REFORM ACT, AND THE FISHING DISPUTE/200 MILE LIMIT CLAIM -- AND TWO OTHERS TO FOREIGN POLICY GENERALLY -- A REFERENCE TO THE DISPUTE WITH PERU OVER THE AMAZONIAN TERRITORIES SEIZED BY THE LATTER IN 1941, AND A REAFFIRMATION OF ECUADOR'S POLICY OF BUILDING TIES TO THE "THIRD WORLD", LOYALTY TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ANDEAN PACT, AND OPEC. PREDICTABLY, RODRIGUEZ GAVE NO TIMETABLE FOR RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC RULE, ALTHOUGH ONCE AGAIN HE REAFFIRMED THAT THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR WOULD NOT CONTINUE INDEFINITELY. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUITO 01157 171918Z

2. PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ SPENT AN HOUR ON NATIONWIDE RADIO/TV AND ASSEMBLE CABINET MINISTERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON SUNDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 16TH, DESCRIBING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S THREE YEARS IN POWER. HIS AIM WAS CLEARLY HIS DOMESTIC AUDIENCE, AND HIS DISCUSSION CONCENTRATED VIRTUALLY EXCLUSIVELY ON DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. HE MADE NO ATTEMPT TO DISTRACT HIS AUDIENCE WITH GRANDSTANDING ABOUT FOREIGN AFFAIRS, NOR DID HE MENTION IN ANY BUT A CURSORY MANNER SUCH LITTLE POLITICAL DISCONTENT AS HAS BEEN MANIFESTED IN RECENT WEEKS. THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF DISSENTION AMONG THE MILITARY IN HIS REMARKS, AND VIRUTALLY HIS ONLY MENTION OF INCIPIENT OPPOSITION TO THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT WAS TO PRAISE THE NEWS MEDIA FOR ITS HONEST, FORTHRIGHT, CANDID CRITICISMS, USEFUL IN KEEPING FESH IDEAS FLOWING AND REPORTING CORRUPTION WHERE IT APPEARS. HE SAID THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTENTION OF PERPETUATING ITSELF INDEFINITELY, AND REPEATED VAGUE PROMISES OF RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME WHEN THE GOALS OF THE PRESENT REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.

3. FOREIGN AFFAIRS ASPECTS TOOK UP FEWER THAN FIVE MINUTES OF THE HOUR'S SPEECH. RE THE FISHING DISPUTE, HE DEFENDED THE RIGHT OF COASTAL STATES TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF THEIR JURISDICTION OVER RESOURCES OFF THEIR COASTS, AND NOTED THAT SOME (US) FISHERMEN HAD CHOSED TO EXPLOIT ECUADOR'S LIMITED RESOURCES WHEN THEIR OWN COUNTRY HAS "ALONG ITS ATLANTIC, PACIFIC, AND ARCTIC COASTS, ICTHYOLOGICAL RESOURCES MILLIONS OF TIMES GREATER THAN THOSE WHICH CAN BE FOUND ALONG THE ENTIRE PACIFIC COAST OF LATIN AMERICA." RODRIGUEZ REAFFIRMED ECUADOR'S WLLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN AN INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK TO AGREE TO A LAW OF THE SEA, AND NOTED THAT ECUAOR'S POSITIONS AND THE QUALITY OF ITS DEFENSE IN CARACAS HAD MET WITH INCREASING INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE. RE THE TRADE REFORM ACT, HE LAMENTED THE ACTION OF THE US CONGRESS AN EXECUTIVE BRANCH IN SINGLING OUT ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA FOR SANCTIONS, DEXCRIBING THE PUNITIVE PROVISIONS OF THE TRA AS A VIRTUAL "DECLARATION OF WAR AGAINST THE THIRD WORLD." RE PERU, HE CONFINED HIS REMARKS TO THE BORDER DISPUTE OVER THE AMAZONIAN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 QUITO 01157 171918Z

TERRITORIES SEIZED BY THAT COUNTRY IN 1941. ALLUDING TO THE DESIRABILITY OF INCREASING ECONOMIC INTEGRATION WITH NEIGHBORING COLOMBIA AND PERU IN THE ECONOMIC PORTIONS OF THE SPEECH, HE LEFT THE DISTINCT IMPRESSION THAT ECUADOR WANTED GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH COUNTRIES AND SAW LITTLE BARRIER TO THEM. THERE WAS ONE REFEEENCE TO THE "HISTORIC FRATERNAL BROTHERHOOD" BETWEEN ECUADOREANS AND PERUVIANS THAT CARRIED WITH IT THE IMPLICATION THAT

ECUADOR -- ON BALANCE -- FEELS A CONSIDERABLE KINSHIP TO PERU, WHICH SQUABBLES OVER BORDER TERRITORIES CANNOT ERASE. RE OPEC AND "THE THIRD WORLD," RODRIGUEZ LEFT NO DOUBT THAT ECUADOR CONSIDERS THESE TIES TO BE AN ARTICLE OF FAITH, A CORNERSTONE OF ITS FOREIGN POLICY.

4. A GOODLY PART OF THE SPEECH (BETTER THAN TWO-THIRDS) WAS DEVOTED TO RECITING IN ITS UNINTERESTING STATISTICAL ENTIRETY THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; THE EXPLOSIVE INCREASE IN NATIONAL RESOURCES DEVOTED TO EDUCATION, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND INFRASTRUCTURE -- ROADS, ELECTRIFICATION, AID TO SMALL BUSINESSES, INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES. NO ATTACKS AGAINST FOREIGN COMPANIES, AND INDEED, A DOGGIE BONE IN HIS STATEMENT THAT THE GOE WOULD SEEK FOREIGN EXPERIENCE, TECHNICAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING THE PETROLEUM SECTOR. AND QUITE A BIT OF EMPHASIS ON THE NEED TO EXPAND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, WITHOUT QUITE EXPLAINING HOW.

5. I MANY OF HIS LISTENERS WERE HOPING FOR SOME INDICATION OF HIS THINKING ABOUT THE EVOLUTION OF THE MILITARY RULE TOWARD CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT, THEY COULD NOT BUT HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTED. HE RENEWED HIS FAITH IN THE EVENTUAL EMERGENCE OF CIVILIAN, REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, "ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE CONSTRUCTIVELY TO THE SOCIAL, JUDICIAL, AND ECONOMIC GOALS OF ALL ECUADOREANS, " BUT STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT THERE WOULD BE NO RETURN TO THE SQUABBLING, DISCREDITED POLITICS OF THE PAST WHICH REPRESENTED ONLY THE VESTED INTERESTS OF THE MINORITY (THE OLIGARCHY). NOR, IF HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT RECENT RUMORS OF MILITARY DISSENTION THAT MIGHT THREATEN HIS OWN PRESIDENCY, DID HE SHOW IT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 QUITO 01157 171918Z

6. RODRIGUEZ GAVE EVERY SIGN OF CONFIDENCE THAT HE THOUGHT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS ON THE RIGHT COURSE, AND THAT IT CONTINUED TO ENJOY THE SUPPORT OF THE VAST MAJORITY OF ECUADOREANS WHO HAD BENEFITTED (ACCORDING TO HIS RECITATION OF THE STATISTICS) FROM THE STABILITY AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS THAT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED. HE ALSO SOUNDED VERY MUCH LIKE A PRESIDENT WHO WAS SURE OF HIMSELF, HIS COURSE, AND HIS GOALS, AND WHO DID NOT FEEL PRESSURED BY ANY FORCES -- EITHER EXTERNAL OR DOMESTIC -- OTHER THAN PERCEIVED NEED TO FULFILL THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REQUIREMENTS OF HIS GREATLY UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRY.

BREWSTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE, FOREIGN RELATIONS, ANNIVERSARY MESSAGES, SPEECHES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975QUITO01157
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750057-0145
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750237/aaaabhei.tel
Line Count: 167
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ' THIRD ANNIVERSARY SPEECH
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EC, US, (RODRIGUEZ LARA, GUILLERMO A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006